

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The Engineering and Programme Staff on one hand and the Administrative Staff on the other are two distinct categories in Prasar Bharati. The functions and responsibilities of Administrative Staff and Programme/Engineering Staff are totally different with no commonality. These categories are, therefore, not identical and perform different nature of duties.

A Group of Minister (GoM) has been constituted to examine the various issues pertaining to the functioning of the Prasar Bharati including service conditions.

**Income from private cable network
companies**

972. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total income generated by Government from various private cable network companies during the last one year;

(b) whether Government have any monitoring agency to check and inspect the *modus operandi* of these cable network companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No separate statistics on the total amounts received from various private cable network organizations in the country are centrally maintained. Local cable network operators are required to register/renewal in Post office by paying Rs. 500/- per-annum. Taxes of Local Self Government/State Government and Central Government are also applicable on them

(b) to (e) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, contains provisions to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The cable operators are required to conform to the provisions of the

said Act in their operations. The Act provides for authorised officers to take action for violation of certain provisions of the Act.

Interest rate on EPF

973. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees of the EPF is still to decide on the interest rate on EPF balances for the coming fiscal;

(b) if so, whether the present EPF interest rate of 8.5 per cent will continue to be in force, which will result in a deficit of Rs. 450 crore by the year end; and

(c) whether Government would consider allowing professional managers to suggest different kinds of portfolios, including equity-linked investments in part?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has not yet deliberated upon the issue of rate of interest on EPF deposits for the coming fiscal year *i.e.* 2007-08.

(c) The recommendation of the Board on this issue has not yet been received by the Government.

Workers share of PF due from members of CII and ASSOCHAM

974. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of CII and ASSOCHAM are due to pay their workers share of Provident Fund to the tune of Rs. 1,500 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?